

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Futura Industries

Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Lean Organization Pays Off for Futura Industries

Client Profile:

Futura Industries, located in Clearfield, Utah, is a single source manufacturer of custom aluminum extrusions whose capabilities include CNC machining, assembly, anodizing, paint/powdercoat, fabrication, bending, custom packaging and precision cutting. The 50-year-old company employs 100 people.

Situation:

There was a general lack of organization at Futura. Getting at needed tools, fixtures and supplies was complicated, and time was wasted trying to find "stuff." This contributed to longer than acceptable lead times and late orders. Futura contacted the Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP Utah), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

The MEP Utah provided a 4-day lean manufacturing training and implementation on 5S. The training was a combination of instruction and specific application for the Futura facility. This instruction and application gave Futura employees a good understanding of the principles associated with Lean. One of the ways they applied the lean principles was that they created shadow boards for easier access of tools. They also precisely organized cabinets and tool boxes. They established specific locations for mobile equipment and supplies and also organized work surfaces and desks.

Results:

- * Improved organization of tools, equipment, and supplies.
- * Increased overall productivity by 1 to 2 percent.
- * Increased productivity in anodizing area by 2 to 3 percent.
- * Boosted employee morale.

Testimonial:

"5S has been extremely valuable in helping us to improve our operations. Employee morale has improved, and it's raised productivity between 2 and 3 percent in anodizing alone. I credit that to just being more organized and having the things where we need them when we need them. The training and implementation we received from MEP Utah at the beginning of this process was critical to our success. We continue to involve them in strengthening our business."

Don Greenfield, Operations Improvement Director